

# **SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY CHILDREN'S NETWORK CBO PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**

## **HIGH DESERT PARTNERSHIP FOR KIDS**

### **MISSION/PURPOSE**

The High Desert Partnership for Kids is a child-focused consortium, committed to sharing collective knowledge and resources to promote the well being of children in the High Desert.

### **MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 13, 2003**

#### **In Attendance:**

Emma Gross, Desert Manna Ministries  
Mireya Perez, Community Tool Box  
Carmen Laird, Community Tool Box  
Wendy Avelar, Community Tool Box  
Joe Sameh, Night Owl PC  
James Pedregon, Night Owl PC  
Frances Mills, Department of Children's Services  
Claire Burrus, 'A Better Way' Domestic Violence  
Dave Vandervert, Coalition for Justice  
Julie Williams, RollingStart Inc.  
Katherine Anderson, High Desert Community Service Agency  
Rebekah Holkesvig, Children's Network – Parent Rep. V.V.  
Anthony Chambers, The High Desert Youth & Family Resource Center  
Cheryl Norton, St. John of God Health Care  
Vici Nagel, High Desert Community Coalition  
Melanie Regalado, A.V.U.S.D. Preschool Family Center  
Anna Vazquez, Adelanto School District D.F. Bradach Elementary  
Kami Murphy, Adelanto School District  
Michele Girard, SB County DPH – PALS – YESS  
Cathy Smith, Alpha Connection Youth & Family Services, Inc.  
Pamela Thompson, Loving the Lamb Ministries  
Carol Ardrey, Loving the Lamb Ministries  
Jose Soberanes, New York Life  
Edward Hidalgo, New York Life  
Veronica Ingersoll, SB County Department of Public Health  
Len Sandman, Hi-Desert Community Foundation  
Jessica Soto, Head Start Victorville  
Barbara Cook, San Bernardino Sexual Assault Services  
Mary Jaquish, CBO Partnership Program – Chair

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Mary welcomed all those present and self-introductions were made. Faith is off this month. Mary is the contact person for CBO question and Surplus Property. Lisa Mc Clinton the receptionist and Tammy Williams will be assisting Mary in the CBO work. Mary welcomed the presenters for this meeting from the Community Tool Box; Mireya Perez, Carmen Laird, and Wendy Avelar.

**2. Additions/Deletions to Agenda**

No additions or deletions were needed.

**3. Approval of December Minutes**

There were no corrections or deletions to the minutes. Included with the minutes and agenda is the previous funding information for your review. All the funding alerts, etc. are placed on the Children's Network web site [www.co.san-bernardino.ca.us/childnet](http://www.co.san-bernardino.ca.us/childnet) for you to review as well as in your packets. Mary mentioned over the last couple of months she had some time to do some reading and found it interesting so many agencies were not accessing available funding. Mary stated you could contact her for any assistance you need when applying for grants.

**4. Guest Speaker Carmen Laird, Coordinator of Community Tool Box**

Carmen gave the following background on the Community Tool Box. The organization was started back in 1999. The first year they spent in planning and researching the issues and concerns of the community in Adelanto. After meetings in the community a Strategic Plan was developed with the following 3 priorities; 1) Building an informed neighborhoods; 2) Involve youth to partner making the community a better place to live; and 3) Unify the community through celebration events.

Some of the highlights discussed were:

- Always looking for different funding sources and grants. St. Joseph assisted in some funding for the implementation.
- The community was encouraged to go to City Council meetings to see what goes on.
- Fifteen to 20 youth have formed the Adelanto Youth Leadership and meet every Tuesday to plan community events such as cleanups, graffiti removal, etc.
- The neighborhoods develop Block Leaders who hold meetings once a month. They take back to their neighbors who couldn't make the meeting information on events and resources.

- A Neighborhood Academy was developed from a model in Phoenix and is now in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year. The participants discuss 3 methods of action such as discussion, planning and workshops. The Academy is made up of adults and youth whom work together. They meet for 4 to 6 sessions to decide on an issue or event they will focus their efforts. Each year there are graduates and some of these graduates will go on and form new Neighborhood Academies in Adelanto. **The Next Neighborhood Academy will begin on February 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Community Tool Box Center at 11497 Bartlett Avenue, Suite A-5, Adelanto.**
- ESL classes are available on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the office. There is a Computer Training Lab where a youth intern teaches the residents of the community basic computer skills. There are also Exercise Classes at the office for women and children.
- Six youth recently went to Georgia to learn about “Swamp Gravy” a style of acting and story telling about concerns in the community. They created a theme about only 2 bags of groceries allowed on the city busses. They are collecting more oral stories so they can perform a big production.
- The funders for the Community Tool Box are; California Endowment, St. Joseph, First 5, and San Bernardino County.
- Wendy Avelar went over the main points of the youth program such as; the program is coordinated with the WIA (Workforce Investment Act) for youth who are at risk of dropping out of school. These youth are given many resources to help them out such as; tutoring, occupational skills to get a job; leadership development; and they are starting a Mentoring Program. January 23<sup>rd</sup> from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. the youth will have a mixer and anyone here is invited to come and speak.
- Maria Perez is the Public Information Coordinator and went over the Por La Vida health promotion program for women. The brochure went over the details, but the program mainly deals with; nutrition, fitness, and the prevention of cardiovascular diseases. The program last 16 sessions and they bring in a variety of presenters. Maria also does workshops at school sites and community organizations for parents whom have children 0 to 5 and assist them in getting the children ready for school.

## 5. Handouts and Round Table Discussion

√ Mary Jaquish reported: Mary referred everyone to the Resource Information in your packets. Mary stated she would be e-mailing on a weekly basis funding alerts. All the funding alerts are also listed on our web site [www.co.san-bernardino.ca.us/childnet](http://www.co.san-bernardino.ca.us/childnet). The new annual report is located on our web site as well, and hard copies will be brought to this group at the February meeting.

Mary suggested the Faith-Based agencies might be interested in a free conference, **White House Conference on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives in San Diego on February 18, 2003**. The conference is free and **you must register on-line**. Mary mentioned a possible resource the agencies can use for their clients is through Children's Fund. They have a grant through Kaiser Permanente in the amount of \$60,000 to be used for medical needs the clients cannot get covered any other way. Please call Suzi or Lori at (909) 387-4949 for further details. There is a 7-year grant for \$100,000 for a drug free community dealing with youth. Operation Breakthrough in Big Bear applied and was awarded the funding, if you are interested in applying contact Mary. Mary mentioned that there is a huge grant for transportation services for the elderly and disabled which is **due on March 7<sup>th</sup>**. Mary has the RFP in the office and can assist you, if your agency decides to apply. Mary will try and get the Postmus Notes to share with you for the meeting in February. Mary has a flyer and newsletter on 'Healthy Share' a program where non-profits can get food baskets for their clients by having them donate 2 hours for the community in service. Please call Mary for further details at (909) 387-9074.

√ Emma Gross of Desert Manna Ministries reported: Emma referred everyone to the Homeless Care Faire flyer and Bus Schedule. The faire is on **Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Barstow Community College**. The faire is geared towards the homeless and/or the soon to be homeless. There will be a variety of agencies there providing services as well as: showers; hygiene kits for adults and children; clothes, blankets and towels; breakfast and lunch, etc.

√ Carmen Laird of the Community Tool Box reported: They will begin in February working on their Strategic Plan. Call the office to see when the next session starts for Por La Vida. Work is continuing to get the Neighborhood Academy started again. They are also in the process of getting a Mentoring program up and running for youth.

√ Joe Sameh and James Pedregon of Night Owl PC reported: They mentioned that there is a severe lack of usable computers that are up-to-date in the local elementary schools. They acquire computers and service them free, and place them in the local elementary schools. They feel it is very important to have up-to-date computers in the local elementary schools since computers are the future and you must know how to operate them to succeed in today's world.

√ Debra Guzman of Desert Mountain FICS program reported: They provide a variety of services from the Department of Behavioral Health when a child in the family has a mental health diagnosis for various referrals for the entire family such as safety, food, short-term intensive services, linkages with the community, etc.

√ Frances Mills of Department of Children's Services reported: She is looking for resources for families and children.

√ Barbara Cook of San Bernardino Sexual Assault Services reported: They will go throughout the community and do presentations on a variety of Prevention of Sexual Assault Services. She can be reached at (760) 243-4052.

√ Claire Burrus of 'A Better Way' Domestic Violence reported: They currently have a Safe House clients can stay up to 6 months. They have 4 apartment units clients can stay in 18 months to 2 years. They are also happy to report they just received a large amount of funding that they plan to purchase 10 unit apartment complex in Apple Valley and a 10 unit apartment complex in Hesperia. Their funding is based on coverage for the entire county. There appears not to be very many apartment units for long-term residences needing shelter from domestic violence situations.

√ Dave Vandever of Coalition for Justice reported: He passed around flyers. Through the California Department of Education they offer citizens (doesn't matter the nationality) assistance to improve their English and take exams for free. They can be reached at (760) 952-3699.

√ Julie Williams of Rolling Start Inc. reported: She is involved in lots of fund raising efforts to provide disabled and homeless clients items they need to be as independent as possible.

√ MaryGrace Gonzalez of Westside Park Student Health Center reported: They provide families with supportive services and medical referrals.

√ Rebekah Holkesvig of Children's Network Parent Rep. of VV reported: Today is her second day at work. She is working on the ELO (Early Learning Opportunities) Federal grant at a preschool site working with birth to 3 years of age. She also works with First 5 as a specialized consultant for the Department of Education.

√ Anthony Chambers of High Desert Youth and Family Resource Center reported: They receive funding through the contracts from the County for the CAPIT (Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention, Treatment) and Safe and Stable Families. They welcome referrals for youth and families, please call them at (760) 245-7103. They are having a fundraiser this Saturday night, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at 15411 Village Drive in Victorville. Anthony stated the tickets are \$20 a piece and it should be a really fun evening.

√ Cheryl Norton of St. John of God Health Care reported: They are serving 8 families now consisting of women and children ages 0 to 5. They offer rehabilitation services, transitional living and assist the mother to seek college, jobs and to become better parents.

√ Vici Nagel of High Desert Community Coalition reported: She referred everyone to a flyer on a free workshop, **February 12<sup>th</sup> from 8:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at City of Barstow, Council Chambers, 220 East Mountain View Street, Suite A, Barstow.** The topic will be on **Media Advocacy Workshop** and will be presented by UCLA Center for Health Policy Research.

√ Melanie Regalado of A.V.U.S.D. State Preschool reported: There are 500 families in the preschool system. They are working to get insurance for children who are not insured and/or undocumented.

√ Anna Vazquez of Adelanto School District, D.F. Bradach Elementary reported: They gather information and resources to assist parents with their children. She recently presented a workshop for students who scored high on the Stat 9 test.

√ Kami Murphy of Adelanto School District reported: She is a teacher and is finishing her degree in counseling so she can assist families with resources.

√ Michele Girard of SB County, DPH – PALS – YESS reported: She provides home visits and school clients to her clients involved with the San Bernardino County, Department of Public Health, PALS (Perinatal Adolescent program and the YESS and the youth program.

√ Cathy Smith of Alpha Connection Youth & Family Services, Inc. reported: They have currently enrolled 28 children in the program. She thanked everyone for his or her donations and mentioned Christmas was a huge event.

√ Pamela Thompson of Loving the LAMB Ministries reported: They are a non-profit organization that provides a safe place for clients whom have experienced severe trauma such as ritual abuse to have a safe home and get out of that life style.

√ Jose Soberanes, Edward Hidalgo of New York Life reported: They have information on the Healthy Family Program funded by the State of California. Many more children in this state are eligible for this program. For further detail you can go to the web site [www.healthyfamilies.com](http://www.healthyfamilies.com). They also had information for individuals in non-profit agencies for their own personal insurance needs.

√ Veronica Ingersoll of SB County Department of Public Health reported: Her department currently conducted a needs assessment for teens and parents. Veronica thanked all who filled out the survey. Veronica hopes to have the data next month to present a report that will be helpful for those applying for grants.

√ Jessica Soto of Head Start Victorville reported: They work with the Community Service Department each Friday between 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (she passed around a flyer with information) they provide winterization and refrigerator exchange for clients in their homes. Community Service Department will only be in the office if they are getting referrals. There will be a Health Faire on February 8<sup>th</sup> sponsored by Tobacco Free Kids, which should be a fun day for families. Jessica can be reached at (760) 951-3431.

**6. Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting will be held on **Monday, February 10, 2003, at 9:00 a.m. at the Desert Mountain Educational Center, 17800 Outer Highway 18, Apple Valley.**

Respectfully submitted,

TAMMY WILLIAMS, Recording Secretary  
Children's Network

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